

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 01060 121348Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20

COM-08 LAB-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 (ISO) W

----- 106650

R 121130Z NOC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4215

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 1060

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MP, PINT

SUBJ: CONSTITUTION AMENDED TO ABOLISH MAURITIAN BYE-ELECTIONS

REF: PORT LOUIS A-185

1. BY VOTE OF 54 TO 11 MAURITIUS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDED CONSTITUTION ON NOVEMBER 9 TO RULE OUT ANY BYE-ELECTIONS UNTIL NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WHICH SCHEDULED FOR 1976. BYE-ELECTIONS HAVE ALREADY (REPAIR) BEEN POSTPONED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THERE ARE AT PRESENT FOUR SEATS OPEN IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH VACANCIES CAUSED BY DEATHS OR RESIGNATIONS.

2. UNDER NEW AMENDMENT, COMPLICATED FORMULA HAS BEEN SET UP TO FILL SEATS BY NOMINATION RPT NOMINATION, WHILE STILL GUARANTEEING COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION. DETAILS AND FURTHER ANALYSIS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

3. IN SPECIAL PROVISION UNDER THIS AMENDMENT SET UP FOR EMPTY SEAT IN PAMPLEMOUSSES/TRIOLET CONSTITUENCY, DEV VIRAHSAWMY, FORMER MMM INCUMBENT (WHO NOW HEADS DISSIDENT BLOC WITHIN THAT GROUPING) MAY APPLY FOR REINSTALLATION AS DEPUTY WITHIN PERIOD ONE MONTH. OTHERWISE ONCE THAT PERIOD PASSED, SEAT WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FILLED BY LABOR PARTY UNDER NEW NOMINEE PROCEDURE.

4. COMMENT: PUBLIC REACTION TO THIS GOVERNMENT MOVE HAS SO FAR BEEN RESTRAINED DESPITE PLAINLY UNDEMOCRATIC FEATURES. GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND SECURITY ADVISERS APPARENTLY BELIEVE ELIMINATION OF BYE-ELECTIONS WILL BE TOLERATED, IF NOT PALATABLE, IN LIGHT PRESENT CONDITIONS IN MAURITIUS BROUGHT ABOUT BY GOOD 1973 SUGAR CROP, WAGE RAISES, AND BUOYANT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. MOOD OF GENERAL POPULACE DOES, IN FACT, SEEM ONE OF LANGUOR. ALTHOUGH SOME INTELLECTUALS WARN OF IMPENDING ONE-PARTY SYSTEM AS RESULT THIS AMENDMENT, NO OVERT ANTAGONISM TO RECENT PROJECT OF LAW HAS BEEN YET OBSERVED.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PORTL01060  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PORT LOUIS  
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**Line Count:** 78  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** PORT LOUIS A-185  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980312  
**Subject:** CONSTITUTION AMENDED TO ABOLISH MAURITIAN BYE-ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, MP, (VIRAHSAWMY, DEV)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005